

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
2065 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Pingree, and Ranking Member Joyce:

As the Appropriations Committee begins its work to set fiscal priorities for FY 2022, we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded.

PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. These dollars go toward supporting many critical services that counties are required to provide on federal public lands, despite their inability to collect property taxes on federal lands.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a direct effect on rural counties from human services to infrastructure. Many counties stepped in to provide critical services in response to the pandemic, like testing, and are still paying those costs. Similarly, many communities saw an increase in visitation to public lands, leading in increased use of infrastructure that was already in need of repair.

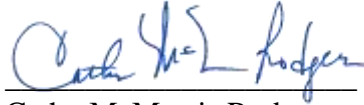
As counties across the United States work to balance their budgets, it is essential that we act to reaffirm the federal government's long-standing commitment to public lands counties by fully funding PILT. Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term and sustainable solution to fully fund PILT in FY 2022 and beyond.

We look forward to working with you to end the financial uncertainty facing thousands of counties nationwide, and we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent.

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is more formal and structured than the one to its left, with clear lettering.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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Greg Stanton
Peter DeFazio
Lauren Boebert
Stacey E. Plaskett
Mike Rogers
Carlos Gimenez
Juan Vargas
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